

On the eve of the one-year anniversary of Operation Cast Lead, the people of Gaza continue to suffer immeasurably under the U.S. imposed blockade, living in tents next to the remains of their homes. Not one house has been rebuilt and not one pane of glass has been allowed in. Ninety-five percent of the drinking water is unfit for human consumption as the man-made humanitarian crisis continues. The United States and our closest ally, Israel, have a responsibility to uphold international humanitarian and international human rights law, both of which are violated by this blockade.

A resolution condemning television programming by designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations does not make our condemnation of terrorist acts more clear. Furthermore, this resolution does nothing to bring the United States and our friends in the Middle East closer to peace and stability. Anti-American sentiment in the Middle East can only be solved through diplomatic means and through the consistent application of peaceful solutions that ensure the security and basic human rights of all people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES
ROBERT PAXTON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James Robert Paxton, a veteran, civic servant, and personal friend who passed away August 2, 2009 at the age of 86.

"Jim Bob," as he was known to his friends and family, was born September 15, 1923. The youngest child of Eugene Stratton Paxton and Ella Clark Paxton, "Jim Bob" grew up in Elkhart, Texas before attending Baylor University. Deciding to put his education on hold, "Jim Bob" enlisted in the United States Navy as an officer where he taught airplane recognition in World War II. His service in the U.S. Navy took him many places, including his arrival on the Japanese island of Nagasaki to help liberate American and Allied prisoners the day after the atom bomb was dropped.

After World War II, "Jim Bob" returned to Baylor University to complete his undergraduate degree before attending law school at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Mr. Paxton then served two terms in the Texas Legislature, where he met and fell in love with his wife, Doris, whom he married in 1954. The couple moved to Palestine where they lived and raised their family, and where Mr. Paxton practiced law for more than fifty years. Among his many outstanding achievements, "Jim Bob" was appointed by Governor Dolph Brisco to serve on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

As evident through his military and civic service, Mr. Paxton was not only a leader in his home as a loving husband and father, but a leader in his community and country. He was known as a man of faith, who lived his life in devotion to God, and he will be missed by those who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Doris Lee Hall Paxton, their five daughters, and nu-

merous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends. Madam Speaker, I ask those here today to join me in remembrance of this great American, James Robert Paxton.

HONORING U.S. MARINE CORPS
VETERAN JOHN D. DAY

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to laud the lifelong achievements, patriotism and honorable militia service to our country by U.S. Marine Corps veteran John D. Day of Hornell, New York. It is a distinct honor to submit his name before the United States House of Representatives for his numerous contributions to the 29th Congressional District and a grateful Nation.

A graduate of Hornell High School, John went on to study Criminal Justice at Finger Lakes Community College and Corning Community College where he balanced his academic studies with his participation on the collegiate baseball teams. After completing his studies, John heeded the call of duty and enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps where he served until his honorable discharge in 2000, after 4 years of service.

John then embarked on a career path of public service as a member of various, local police departments where he achieved the rank of Sergeant while simultaneously working towards the completion of his associates degree.

As a training officer, John was credited with designing and implementing numerous programs to better train officers and to improve job performance. Tragically, while en route to work at the Bath VA Police Department on October 27, 2008, John was killed when his vehicle was hit by a drunk driver.

Since the accident, John was posthumously promoted to Lieutenant and was honored in April as the United States Department of Veteran Affairs Police Officer of the Year at the Annual Law Enforcement Banquet. John was also cited by the VA National Central Office for his perfect record maintaining and completing all training records. In addition, the last two classes at the Federal Police Officer Academy at Little Rock, Arkansas, dedicated their graduation and hard work to the way John performed his duties at work and the professionalism he demonstrated.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, it is my honor to recognize Officer John D. Day's contributions to his country and community.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF
KAREN WILKINSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, the Judiciary Committee's Crime, Terrorism, and Home-

land Security Subcommittee Chairman ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Karen Wilkinson for her work with the Committee for the past 2 years.

Karen came to us as a detailee from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. At the end of December, Karen will return to Phoenix, Arizona to continue her work as an Assistant Federal Public Defender representing indigent clients in federal criminal cases, where she worked for eight years before coming to the Committee. Prior to that, she clerked for the U.S. District Court for Arizona and then joined the law firm of Brown & Bain. Karen graduated magna cum laude from Arizona State University Law School, received a Masters in Business Administration from NOVA University and her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan.

Karen's accomplishments during her tenure with the Committee include a number of bills that are very important to improving our country's criminal justice system. During the 111th Congress, she was responsible for guiding several legislative measures to approval on the floor of the House of Representatives, including: H.R. 448, the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2009; H.R. 632, the National Silver Alert Act of 2009; H.R. 748, CAMPUS Safety Act of 2009; H.R. 908, the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization Act of 2009; H.R. 1333, which amends chapter 40 of title 18 of the United States Code to exempt the transportation, shipment, receipt, or importation of explosive materials for delivery to a federally recognized Indian tribes; H.R. 1727, the Managing Arson Through Criminal History, MATCH, Act; H.R. 1933, a Child is Missing Alert and Recovery Center Act; S. 1289, the Foreign Evidence Request Efficiency Act of 2009, and H.R. 2661, the Court Security Enhancement Act of 2009.

In addition, she is shepherding several very important bills pending before the Judiciary Committee, such as: H.R. 503, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009; H.R. 3327, the Ramos-Compean Justice Act of 2009; H.R. 2289, the Juvenile Justice Accountability and Improvement Act of 2009; H.R. 2095, the Restitution for the Exonerated Act; H.R. 1149, the Child Protection Reauthorization Act of 2009 and H.R. 1422, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Reauthorization Act of 2009. Karen is also developing the Literacy Education and Rehabilitation Act, LERA, and the Department of Justice Reauthorization Act, legislation that would require a criminal defense representative to be appointed to the United States Sentencing Commission, as well as bills that would correct the firearm recidivist sentencing guidelines and the computation of good time credit in federal prison system.

We would like to thank the Administrative Office of Courts and the Federal Public Defender's Office of Phoenix for their generosity in allowing such a dedicated, responsible, and committed person to become such an integral part of our team. We are deeply grateful to Karen for her service, professionalism, and friendship during the past 2 years. She possesses that rare balance of humility, warmth, wit, and passion without a trace of ego, and she will be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck and give her our thanks.